

# FISCAL NOTE

## HB 3320 - SB 3295

March 12, 2004

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Provides that an offender who intentionally or knowingly unlawfully injures the guide dog of another and permanently deprives the owner of the use of the guide dog's services commits theft of that animal. In determining the value of the guide dog for the purpose of the grading of theft, the cost of the dog and the cost of the training shall be considered. The bill also provides that the person causing the death or the owner of the animal causing the death may be found liable for economic damages including both the cost of the guide dog and the cost of training the dog received.

### ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$1,700/Incarceration\***  
**Decrease Local Govt. Expenditures - Not Significant**  
**Decrease Local Govt. Revenues - Not Significant**

Estimate assumes including the cost of the dog and the dog's training would elevate the offense from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E felony. It is assumed there would be one conviction every three years. There would be a decrease in local government revenues and expenditures from a decrease in fines levied and incarceration costs from a Class A misdemeanor offense being elevated to a felony offense.

*\*Section 9-4-210, TCA, requires that: For any law enacted after July 1, 1986, which results in a net increase in periods of imprisonment in state facilities, there shall be appropriated from recurring revenues the estimated operating cost of such law. The amount appropriated for operating cost, in current dollars, shall be based upon the highest cost of the next 10 years, beginning with the year the additional sentence to be served impacts the correctional facilities population.*

### CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director